

A NEW VARIETY OF ARCYTOPHYLLUM FROM PERU

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ARCYTOPHYLLUM THYMIFOLIUM var. SCOLNIKII Monachino, var. nov.

Frutex, caulibus prostratis radicanibus puberulis; stipulis bi- vel tri-deltaideo-lanceolatis; foliis anguste lanceolatis 3-5 mm. longis, ca. 0.8 mm. latis, medio latissimis, ad apicem subacutis, muticis, basin versus angustatis; petiolo brevi; cymis paucifloris; lobis calicis 4 vel 5 subacutis; corolla glabra, tubo ca. 4.5 mm. longo, lobis 4 vel 5, ca. 3 mm. longis.

Prostrate subshrub, stems rooting, minutely puberulent, subterete, elongated, resembling runners, slender, the densely leafy short branches arising from the creeping stems; interpetiolar stipules 2-3 cleft into narrow deltoid-lanceolate lobes ca. 0.4 mm. long; leaves thickish, narrowly sublanceolate or oblanceolate, 3-5 mm. long, ca. 0.8 mm. broad, broadest at or above the middle, gradually narrowed toward the base into a short petiole, acutish at apex, muticous, not mucronate or piliferous, glabrous (obscurely roughened), margins sometimes lightly involute; flowers (short-styled form) in few-flowered cymes, 4- or 5-merous, cystoliths or cystolith-like markings often present, pedicels very short; sepals lanceolate, 1-2 mm. long, acutish, muticous; corolla infundibuliform, glabrous, tube 4.3-5 mm. long, lobes ovate, ca. 2.6 mm. long, 1.3 mm. broad, acutish at apex, glabrous (microscopically papillose inside); filaments inserted at orifice of corolla-tube of the short-styled flower, ca. 1 mm. long, anthers 1.3 mm. long, style 2-branched at summit, 2.5 mm. long, the branches slightly over 1 mm. long, minutely papillose-pubescent.

Type: Rosa Scolnik 1309, Peru, dept. Cajamarca, Camino Cajamarca to Celendin, 2750 to 4000 m.; 13 & 14 Nov. 1948; "rostrera, fl. blancas."

The only prostrate species of Arcytophyllum reported for Peru by Paul C. Standley in Macbride's Flora of Peru (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Bot. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 6, pp. 69-70. 1936) is A. filiforme (R. & P.) Standl., easily distinguished by its piliferous leaves and glabrous stems. A. thymifolium var. Scolnikii is very closely related with the species A. thymifolium (R. & P.) Standl., which however is an erect shrub. The creeping habit of

the variety is evident from the type specimen and it was also noted by the collector. The stipules are more deeply and distinctly cleft. A. thymifolium and A. ericoides (Willd. ex R. & S.) Standl. have stipules entire or sometimes faintly dentate at the apex. The variety is associated with A. thymifolium rather than A. ericoides as the latter, based on a later name, is only doubtfully distinct from the former.

In the above publication Standley placed Hedyotis juniperifolia Ruiz & Pavon doubtfully in the synonymy of A. thymifolium. H. juniperifolia however was described originally as procumbent. The stipules were described as ovate, acute. The illustration showed the stem profusely branching, not elongated like runners as in var. Scolnikii, and did not indicate roots on the stems. Nevertheless, when authentic material of H. juniperifolia becomes available it should be compared with the present variety.

Arcytophyllum comprises some twenty-five species confined to the high mountains, chiefly in the South American Andes and Central American cordilleras. It and Oldenlandia are the only members of the rubiaceous tribe Hedyotideae reported for the South American area. The contribution of the Rubiaceae by Standley in the Flora mentioned above, and also his treatment of the family for Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela, in vol. 7 of the same journal (1930 and 1931) have facilitated the comparison of our plant with all the other described species of Arcytophyllum. Accepting Standley's synonymy, twenty-two species were studied, and in addition five species which do not appear in the above works by Standley, and also several old names under other genera possibly referable to Arcytophyllum. A. nodosum Rusby appears little more than a form of A. setosum (R. & P.) Standl. "A. flavescens" mentioned by Rusby in 1934 in Phytologia and "Arcytophyllum crassifolium (Spruce) K. Schum." listed by Weberbauer in 1945 in his El Mundo Vegetal de los Andes Peruanos were apparently never formally published.

Besides A. filiforme (see also A. juniperifolium), four species have been described as prostrate. These differ from the Scolnik plant by obvious characters. A. muticum (Wedd.) Standl. has broader leaves, broadest near the base, and glabrous stems (stipules puberulent). A. aristatum Standl. has piliferous leaves and glabrous stems; it is doubtfully a distinct species from A. filiforme. A. recurvatum Suessenguth, from Costa Rica, has glabrous stems which appear bialate, according to de-

scription. A. microphyllum (Willd. ex R. & S.) Standl. has ovate leaves, single flowers with almost rotate corollas, and trigonous seeds; it has hardly the habit of an Arcytophyllum, and may eventually be placed in another genus. The Guatemalan A. Shannoni (Donn. Smith) Standl., with oval to elliptic-oblong leaves, was referred to the synonymy of Houstonia serpyllacea (Schlecht.) C. L. Smith by Standley in the North American Flora in 1918. Hedyotis Cervantesii H.B.K., from Mexico, was noted to resemble A. thymifolium; it was described as caespitose, with stems quadrangular and corolla-tube puberulent within. In Gay's Flora Chilena (1847), Arcytophyllum is treated as Hedyotis, under which five species are described. Only the first two can claim our attention, H. lericifolia Cavan. and H. thymifolia Ruiz & Pav. Both of these are erect plants.

The present novelty is named in honor of Dr. Rosa Scolnik, of Córdoba, Argentina. Dr. Scolnik collected an interesting set of specimens during 1948 and 1949 in Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. Several of the specimens collected by her will surely prove to represent species new to science. One other novelty has already been described based on Dr. Scolnik's collection (Tillandsia zamorensis L. B. Smith, published in this journal). A Diastema (Scolnik 915, Peru), outstanding in its narrow calyx-lobes, was not identified with any known species; C. V. Morton was likewise unable to name it and reported that it is probably undescribed. Another plant from Peru (Scolnik 936) appeared to be an Hansteinia, but it was unlike any species at The New York Botanical Garden; this, and also some other Acanthaceae presently in the hands of E. C. Leonard, will likely prove new. Cavendishia and Gaultheria not matched at New York will be studied by A. C. Smith. Two fruiting specimens of Pernettya chubutensis Spegazzini were collected by Dr. Scolnik (263 and 309, Neuquén, Argentina). The species is nothing even remotely ericaceous, but clearly a Maytenus. It is related with M. disticha (Hook. f.) Urb., but has leaves rounded at the base, faintly serrulate on the margins, and with a midrib not raised on the upper side. The leaves are roughened by minute erect stiff hairs; this indumentum is present on both sides of the leaves (sparser beneath), contrary to the original description "ad hypophyllum glabris." The capsule is 2-valved; the seed is invested with a membranous aril, endosperm abundant, embryo yellowish. The Scolnik specimens had been taken for a new species of Maytenus until Dr. Alicia

Lourteig pointed out the synonymy. Dr. Lourteig further recounted how she too, on the basis of other collections, had prepared at Tucuman to describe the plant as a new Maytenus, and how N. Y. Sandwith at Kew had also separated it as new! Then, by accident, Dr. H. Sleumer discovered the Spelazzini species (described in 1897) amongst the Ericaceae. The transfer to Maytenus will be made by Lourteig, O'Donell and Sleumer.

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#### BOOK REVIEW: ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S AMERICA

Harold N. Moldenke

"Ernest Thompson Seton's America: Selections from the writings of the Artist-Naturalist", by Farida A. Wiley, with contributions by Julia M. Seton and drawings by Ernest Thompson Seton. Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1954. \$5. 413 plus 23 pp.

Miss Wiley has done here for Ernest Thompson Seton what she did previously for John Burroughs. She has brought together within the covers of a single 436-page volume selections from the best writings of this naturalist.

Seton's work was the first accurate observation of Canadian wild life and on that alone his fame could rest, but he added to that many years of observation in the areas of Connecticut and New Mexico. His Woodcraft League was actually the forerunner of the Boy Scouts movement of today. He is still regarded by scouts, foresters, and woodsmen alike as a master of woodcraft and lore.

Certain armchair naturalists are prone to criticize Seton's writings as too humanistic, anthropomorphic, and teleologic in their description of the action of wild animals. To this reviewer that is not a fault. Because of this charming manner of writing about animals, hundreds -- yes, probably thousands -- of persons were attracted to his books, read them, and came to love the great out-of-doors. Thousands of readers came to respect the lesser animals of this planet more than they did before and came to sympathize with their problems of survival. If more people who otherwise would have had little or no interest in the wildlife of our continent became aware of it, of its beauty and charm and value, and were made to appreciate the need for conservation through his manner of writing about it, then there can be no question about its worth! One of the most widespread criticisms justly leveled at armchair scientists today by the public is that they do not know how to write in a way to attract the public. If they would take time to study the techniques of Burroughs, Seton, Thoreau, Burgess, Swift, and others of our more popular nature-writers they would soon find where the fault lies. When they write a scientific monograph for publication in an obscure scientific journal, let them be as stilted and objective as they